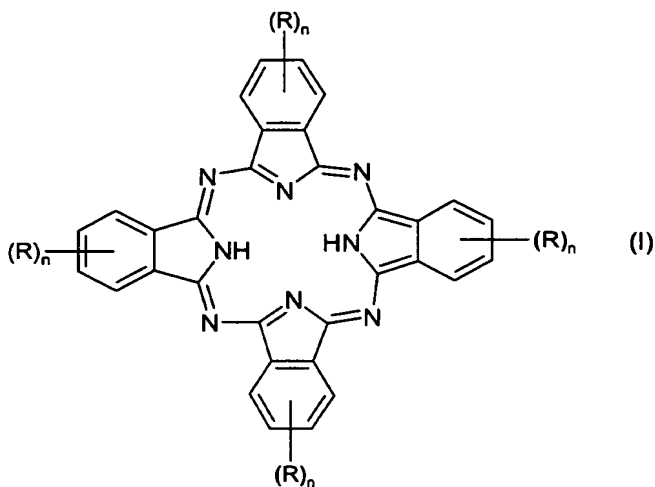


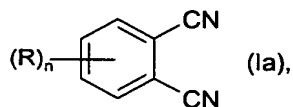
Process for the preparation of phthalocyanines

Abstract

- 5 The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of metal-free phthalocyanines of the formula I



- 10 by conversion of an ortho-phthalodinitrile of the formula Ia



- 15 in an inert solvent with a boiling point of at least 120°C (at standard pressure) in the presence of ammonia, in which, in formula I or Ia, the variable n can adopt values of 1, 2, 3 or 4 and the R radicals denote a five- or six-membered saturated nitrogen-comprising heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by one or two C₁-C₈-alkyl groups which is bonded via a ring nitrogen atom to the benzene ring and which can still comprise one or two additional nitrogen atoms or an additional oxygen or sulfur atom,
- 20 which comprises carrying out the conversion in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or alkali metal carbonate.